Disclosure of further details concerning sensitive aspects of our bilateral relationship with friendly countries, would impinge on national security. If would thus, not be in the interest of national security to disclose further details.

Take over of cantonment areas' civic administration by the Army

1246. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for doing away with the Indian Defence Estate Service (IDES) is under active consideration with a view to pave the way for complete take over of cantonment areas' civic administration by the Army;

(b) whether it is a fact that a final decision into this matter is being deferred because of the differences in the perception of on IDES role in the cantonment affairs;

(c) whether Government have analysed the socio-economic benefits, if any, accruing from this change; and

(d) if so, how Army would be in a better position for urban governance and land management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) No proposal to pave the way for complete take over of cantonment areas' civic administration by the Army is under consideration of the Government. However, an exercise has been undertaken for streamlining the administration of cantonments, better management of Defence Estates and bringing about greater efficiency and cost effectiveness in running the various organisations including the Indian Defence Estates Service/Military Engineering Service under Ministry of Defence.

(c) and (d) A committee has been constituted to go into the various issues involved.